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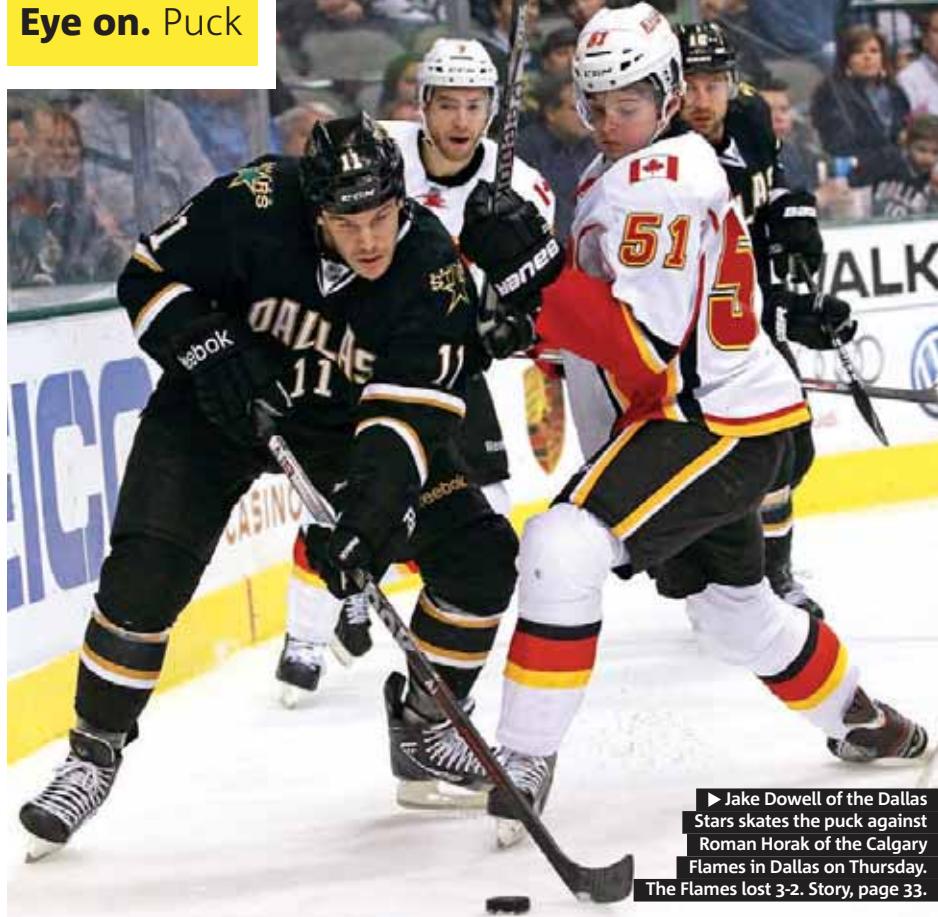
Weekend, February 17-20, 2012

www.metronews.ca



News worth
sharing.

Eye on. Puck



► Jake Dowell of the Dallas Stars skates the puck against Roman Horak of the Calgary Flames in Dallas on Thursday. The Flames lost 3-2. Story, page 33.

RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Dallas Stars beat the Flames in overtime

Family's husky kills Airdrie newborn

► Home at centre of incident believed to be base for dog-sledding-equipment business

Airdrie bylaw officers have quarantined a family pet after an unimaginable attack on the owner's newborn baby.

RCMP were called to a home in the 2400 block of Kingsland View around 10 a.m. Wednesday and found a newborn suffering from bite wounds inflicted by a family-owned husky.

The baby was rushed to the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary but later died. Information online indicates he was no more than two months old.

"Our investigation has determined that was simply a very tragic accident," said RCMP Insp. Tony Hamori. "Charges are not being laid. Our hearts go out to the family—it's unimaginable what they must be going through."

Neighbours indicated Thursday

Dog attacks

► There was a second child living in the Airdrie home where the dog attack took place, but officials do not believe he is in any danger.

that the couple living in the home ran a dog-sledding business and a website appeared to verify that claim. An individual at the home Thursday refused to comment.

Metro has chosen not to name the family at this time, but their online biography indicates they have adopted four huskies.

The dog that attacked is being quarantined until the family and bylaw officers decide whether it should be destroyed. ● JEREMY NOLAIIS/
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On the web at metronews.ca

A man who tried to blow up a packed flight with a bomb hidden in his underwear has been sentenced to life in prison. Video at metronews.ca

Council may fall under disclosure program

Wrongdoing on the part of a city-council member could soon come with mandated repercussions after the audit committee approved the inclusion of the mayor and aldermen under the city's whistle-blower policy.

Much like all other city employees who can be investigated for reports of wrongdoing, Ald. Brian Pincott believes council members should be held accountable.

"I think that we have to be held, at the very least, to the same standards as city staff," said Pincott. "There is a perception that we are above the rules, and we're not."

Pincott questioned whether, as public officials, the names of council members should remain anonymous if claims are investigated and substantiated.

City auditor Todd Horbasenko said he believes the names should be confidential, as is the case with all city employees, to be consistent.

"If (council) wants increased disclosure, let them have that, but no less disclosure," he said.

If approved by council, a framework will be developed including who will investigate claims against council and what the repercussions will be.

Horbasenko will report back to council in March with recommendations.

● KATIE TURNER



Pathologist investigated

► Former Calgary doctor under review after errors found in autopsies

Justice officials in Alberta are investigating the work of a former forensic pathologist after mistakes were found in at least four of his autopsies.

The unnamed doctor was in Calgary for a year before leaving the job last September. He was part of 426 death investigations, including 13 homicides.

The mistakes found so far, confirmed by pathologists in the United States, did not involve criminal deaths.

But a special prosecutor

will be reviewing all his homicide files and defence lawyers on the cases will be notified, Greg Lepp, assistant deputy minister with the criminal justice branch, said Thursday.

He said the priority will be on criminal cases that are currently before the courts, followed by cases that have already concluded.

"That does not mean in any way that we're satisfied that errors or mistakes were made in those

Medical examiner

► Mistakes were found in an autopsy by Dr. Michael Belenky, a former assistant medical examiner in Calgary.

► A subsequent review of his criminal files found there were no miscarriages of justice, said Lepp.

criminal cases," Lepp said.

Dr. Anny Sauvageau,

the province's chief

medical examiner, said not all pathologist files are autopsies. Many are external exams, which take less time.

She has made it a priority since she was hired last year to establish a peer-review system for autopsies.

Families are now able to request autopsy reviews, she said. And beginning next month, all homicide cases will get a second look before they are handed over to police.

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SEXUAL-ASSAULT CHARGES

**Man fondled
jailed
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Police**

A Calgary man faces sexual-assault charges after complaints by two women in custody.

Calgary police say David James Bourassa, 63, who had been a Commissionaires court-security officer contracted to work at the down-

town holding centre of the Court Services Section, is accused of fondling a woman in custody in March 2011. A second woman came forward in August 2011, saying she had been fondled while in custody on several occasions between 2009 and 2011.

Bourassa's contract was terminated after the first complaint in April 2011. He's charged with two counts of sexual assault and will appear in court again on March 15.

● METRO

**Medical grow-op
closed over safety**

For the second time in as many months, a medical-marijuana grow operation has been shut down in Calgary after an inspection found several safety-code infractions.

On Wednesday, safety-code officers executed a search warrant at a residence where they discovered both water and electrical bypasses, similar to that of an illegal grow-op, said Wayne Brown of the Coordinated Safety Response Team.

Brown said he was frustrated to find that another residence licensed by Health Canada was not following proper safety requirements.

"We want them to operate safely within the City of Calgary. We're finding too many safety violations," he said. "In a perfect world, we would like

18 Those applying for a medical-marijuana licence must prove that the production site is not adjacent to a school, playground, daycare or other facility that is frequented by people under the age of 18.

to inspect each of these."

A Health Canada spokesperson said changes are underway to improve the Marihuana Medical Access Program.

"Health Canada is proposing to phase out the production of medical marihuana by individuals in their homes and communities," an email statement says. "This would reduce risks to public health, safety and security resulting from such production."

● KATIE TURNER

Penguin Plunge set to open – tuxedos optional

► Much-anticipated exhibit opens to the public on Friday ► Four species of penguins represented, with plans afoot to breed the aquatic birds



**JEREMY
NOLAINS**
@METRONEWS.CA

It's a penguin party, years in the making.

On Friday, the Calgary Zoo will open the doors to its newest exhibit, the Penguin Plunge, and 46 waddling stars are expected to steal the show for weeks to come.

But preparations for the big unveiling began long ago, collection specialist Pam Pritchard says.

"Zoos are very seldom taking animals out of the wild these days, so the North American captive community was where we started looking," she said.

"A zoo will build up a collection through breeding and then eventually have surplus penguins available for other zoos."

Getting the birds here was no easy task, either. With three of the species acquired, staff had to keep temperatures inside airplanes and transportation vehicles between 5 to 7 C.

But it was all worth it: Calgary's official penguin contingent now spans four species — Gentoo, rockhopper, king and Humboldt — and come from Montreal, Seattle, Syracuse, N.Y., San Antonio, Texas, and Edin-



► Zookeeper Elaine Willms feeds some of the Calgary Zoo's new penguins.

COURTESY OF SERGEI BELSKI

burgh — yes, in Scotland.

About 8,000 zoogoers are expected to visit the exhibit daily, and staff already have their eyes on expanding their penguin posse.

"Once they settle in, we will see some breeding," Pritchard said, noting the habitat can hold up to 55 residents. "This is a permanent penguin exhibit. From now on, we will always have penguins."

Penguin parade

► Official opening ceremonies for the Penguin Plunge begin at 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

► The \$24.5-million exhibit also features a gift shop, café and specialized fish-feeding area.

► For their frolicking pleasure, Calgary's penguins can splash about in a 49,000-litre outdoor pool and 144,000-litre indoor pool.

► The Calgary Zoo is at 1300 Zoo Rd. N.E. To learn more, call 403-232-9300 or go to calgaryzoo.org.

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INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Calgary to get \$257M in MSI funds

Calgary will see nearly \$257 million for city infrastructure projects after the province announced the municipal sustainability initiative (MSI) funding from the 2012-2013 provincial budget.

Alberta communities will share in \$896 million this year, up by \$10 mil-

lion over 2011.

"I'm pleased to see Calgary continuing to use MSI funding to build, improve and rejuvenate neighbourhood facilities," said Minister of Municipal Affairs Doug Griffiths.

Among the projects funded with last year's Calgary money are the King Edward School arts incubator, with \$5 million; the Frank McCool Arena; the Optimist Athletic Park; and the Crowchild Arena.

• METRO

Suspect arrested in Canmore over sexual assault of girl, 8

Canmore RCMP have apprehended a man believed to have abducted and sexually assaulted a child in Canmore.

After the Canmore RCMP had put out information relating to the whereabouts of Jorge Betancourt, 37, he was located later Thursday and taken into custody.

Betancourt has been charged with one count of abduction and one count of invitation to sexual touching after it's alleged he pulled an eight-year-old girl into a public washroom and invited a sexual act.

The young girl managed to escape, according to police. • METRO

HOW TO MAKE CALGARY THE BEST CITY? MAKE SMOKERS BUTT OUT**IN DEFENCE OF**

MIKE MORRISON
METRO CALGARY



A few days ago, the town of Côte Saint-Luc, a township of Montreal, took the big step in stopping one of this country's biggest killers, smoking.

The nasty and gross habit is now banned in parks, playgrounds and sports fields. It's a bold decision made by the town's municipal government, one that I hope Calgary will

soon support and duplicate.

Smoking has always been something that I've never understood. To me, it's confusing why anyone would want to put something that is on fire in your mouth.

If it's not safe for kids to play with matches, why are we essentially putting those matches into our lungs? Yet people still smoke.

The fact that Calgarians continue to smoke in such big numbers is particularly disconcerting. On any day, walk down Stephen Avenue and you'll see hundreds of well-dressed, intelligent and good-looking people smoking cigarettes. I don't know about you, but it's so frustrating when I devote energy into checking someone out, only to discover that they are holding a smoke in between their wrinkly and yellowing fingers.

And what's the point of spending time and money on your outfit, if you're going to smoke in it? Unfortunately, that \$10 pack of cigarettes says more about you than your \$300 shoes do. Jon Hamm or January Jones you are not.

Maybe it's because I'm absolutely the cheapest person I know, but why would people knowingly spend their hard-earned money on something that is 100 per cent killing them? And smokers can deny it all they want, but, yes, those cigarettes are indeed killing you. Tobacco use is the No. 1 cause of preventable disease, disability and death in Canada, according to Health Canada.

Every year, 1,000 Canadians die because of second-hand smoke. Yup, even though I have nothing to do with your nasty habit, I could end up dying because

of it. Seems selfish, doesn't it?

Look, I have lots of bad habits. I eat chicken wings like they're going out of style and I still wear some clothes I had in high school (I already told you I was cheap). But messing with my fresh air while I'm on the Ship and Anchor patio — well, that's just unacceptable.

For the past few years, I've really felt a momentum that Calgary is close to becoming one of the top cities in Canada, so why not make it official? Let's be ruthless when it comes to making smoking illegal; if not for our city's reputation, how about the lives of our friends and families?

Mike Morrison is the perfectly bald head behind Mike's Bloggity Blog. He also tweets regularly from @mikesbloggity.

You Are Invited to a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Information Session Hosted by The Independent Living Resource Centre of Calgary

Learn more about this federally registered savings plan delivered by the Government of Canada. Funding for these information sessions is provided by the Government of Canada. / Ces séances d'information sont financées par le gouvernement du Canada.

RDSP FACTS

• Having an RDSP does not impact Federal Benefits. • In most provinces and territories, money in an RDSP does not impact existing provincial social assistance support programs. • You may be eligible to receive annual grants of up to \$3,500 depending on your contribution and family income. • Even with no financial contribution, you may be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 every year for up to 20 years.

Two information sessions will be held at:

Winston Heights Mountview Community Association
520-27th Ave NE (Enter front door and turn right)

Monday, February 27, 6:30pm – 8:00pm • Tuesday, February 28, 6:30pm – 8:00pm
(Please register for either session, not both)

Cost: FREE - Space is Limited

For more info, and to register, please call: 1-403-263-6880, ext. 224
email: learn@ilrc.ca

Please note that pre-registration is required. If materials are needed in alternative formats, notice must be given at least 7 days prior to the event. If deaf and hard of hearing individuals require interpretive services, they must provide at least 10 days notice, and ILRCC will seek appropriate services, if available.

This information session is available in English only. Afin d'obtenir des renseignements en français, veuillez communiquer avec Gilbert Brunette par téléphone, au 613-563-2581 Ext. 11, ou par courriel à liaison@vac-ilc.ca ou visiter le www.vacanada.ca

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Job action rallies support for new health contract

- Mediation talks between the AHS and AUPE broke off last week
- Both sides agreed to binding arbitration late Thursday



DARREN
KRAUSE
@METRONEWS.CA

Over 80 Alberta Union of Public Employee health services workers at the Peter Lougheed Hospital, armed with handmade placards, lobbied for the support of drivers along 26 Avenue Northeast in a wildcat strike during the noon hour Thursday.

Workers like surgical processor Ted Dylong, at the PLC for 10 years, said they want a contract that's at least equal to the one that's expired.

"If they left it as is, I'd be OK with it," said Dylong.

"But they want to cut it back."



► Health Services support workers staged a wildcat strike over the lunch hour Thursday at the Peter Lougheed Centre. Wildcat strikes were staged at hospitals across the province.

DARREN KRAUSE/METRO

AUPE chapter chair, Gaye Kingdon, a clerk in the nursing-services unit, said they want to feel like equal partners in delivering health services.

"We just want a fair contract to know that we are as important as the rest of the

people in the hospital."

Contingency plans have been put into place at all affected sites, with management staff providing services such as meal delivery, portering and room cleaning.

"We are focused on tak-

No legal ability

- AUPE represents 22,000 AHS workers (clerical, housekeeping, food services and trades) in Locals 054, 056, 057, 058, 095.
- According to the AHS, under the Alberta Labour Relations Code, health-authority employees don't have the legal ability to strike.
- Work action was taken at hospitals across the province.

ing care of our patients," said Chris Mazurkewich, executive vice-president and COO for Alberta Health Services.

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Calvin McDonald, President and CEO, Sears Canada Inc.

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Ex-Degrassi actor mourned – five years after death

Former child star Neil Hope, who played Derek "Wheels" Wheeler on the long-running youth series Degrassi, died alone in a Hamilton rooming house in 2007, said former fiancee Christina Boulard on Thursday, as details of the troubled actor's final years emerged.

Boulard said family members had spent years trying to track down Hope's whereabouts after hearing rumours of his passing several years ago, but only learned the truth last month from Hamilton police.

She said he died on Nov. 25, 2007 of "natural causes" but refused to explain further, only saying Hope was diabetic.

Hamilton police said a spokesperson was not available to comment.

Boulard said she last saw Hope in 2002 when he lived in Windsor, Ont., and didn't know how he ended up in Hamilton. She said it



► Neil Hope

was not unusual for him to cut ties with friends and family from time to time.

Hope, who was 35 when he died, was buried on March 26, 2008 but Boulard would not say where.

The Twitterverse was abuzz with tributes as word of his death spread Thursday. A memorial page from a fan in Israel featured photos of Hope and a guest book for other fans to share condolences.

Degrassi creator Linda Schuyler said she was "terribly saddened to hear the news." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Feds target 'bogus' refugees

► New bill includes biometric ID, limits to appeals

The Conservative government is using its majority to once again overhaul the refugee system to reduce what it considers to be bogus claims.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney tabled legislation in the House of Commons on Thursday that reverses some key concessions the Tories made to the opposition two years ago in order to pass the Balanced Refugee Reform Act through a minority Parliament.

This new legislation, called the Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act, more closely resembles the original refugee bill as tabled by the Tories, before any concessions.

But Kenney says a glut of refugee claims from the European Union has forced the government to adopt even tougher measures.

"We worked with the op-



► Immigration Minister Jason Kenney

position in good faith and we ended up with a bill that was a huge improvement over the status quo," he said Thursday. "But we have a serious problem. We're facing a large wave of unfounded asylum claims coming from the European Union in particular. The only tool we have to address that now is the imposition of a visa. That hurts Canada's commercial, diplomatic

ic interests. It hurts the tourism industry. We need other tools to address it."

Canada is close to inking a free-trade agreement with the European Union. The Czech Republic has threatened to hold up the deal if Canada does not get rid of a visa requirement it slapped on Czech citizens in 2009.

The new legislation would give the federal immigration minister final say

Appeals curbed

► Refugees from safe countries whose claims are rejected will no longer be permitted to appeal the decision to the Immigration and Refugee Board. They are allowed to appeal to the board under the current legislation.

► All rejected claimants can still appeal to the Federal Court, but they can be kicked out of the country while they wait for a ruling.

over which countries are considered safe and which are not.

"Our generous asylum system has been abused by people making bogus refugee claims," Kenney said. "Our government is very concerned about the recent increase in refugee claims from democratic countries that respect human rights."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Kent

er countries in efforts to cut emissions of common, short-lived pollutants even as it's facing questions internationally about its true commitment to fighting climate change.

Environment Minister Peter Kent was in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, appearing alongside U.S. Secretary of State Hillary

Clinton to announce the five-year initiative.

He said the coalition, which also includes Bangladesh, Ghana, Mexico and Sweden, will "reduce emissions, help counter climate change, and work towards delivering a global solution to this global problem."

Canada's contribution

is modest by any standards — it's kicking in just \$3 million. The U.S. is contributing \$12 million, while the amount being doled out by the other nations wasn't immediately known. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

FIVE-YEAR INITIATIVE

Clinton, Kent unveil modest climate plan

Canada has joined the United States and four other



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► Thai immigration officers escort detained Iranian Mohammad Kharzei, centre, at the immigration headquarters in Bangkok on Thursday,

Thai plot linked to other bombings: Police

► In wake of incidents, Israel's foreign ministry says security has been stepped up for diplomatic staff abroad

Three Iranians detained after accidentally setting off explosives in Bangkok were planning to attack Israeli diplomats, Thailand's top policeman said Thursday in the first confirmation by local officials that the group was plotting attacks in Thailand.

Israel has strongly accused Iran of being behind the botched plot, a bombing in India and an attempted bombing in the former Soviet republic of Georgia this week, which Iran has denied.

Citing the similarity of bombs used in New Delhi and Tbilisi, national police chief Gen. Preewpan Dhamapong said that Thai authorities now "know for certain that

"Israel expects (the Security Council) to issue a clear condemnation today, without any further delay or equivocation."

RON PROSOR, ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

(the target) was Israeli diplomats."

"This issue was about individuals and the targets were specific," he said. "This was something personal."

Israel has accused Iran of waging a covert campaign of state terror and has threatened military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities. Iran has blamed the Jewish state for the recent killings of Iranian atomic scientists and has denied responsibility for all three bomb plots.

The explosion Monday in New Delhi tore through an Israeli diplomatic vehicle, wounding the driver and a diplomat's wife, and an attempt was foiled the same day in Georgia.

The plot in Bangkok was discovered when explosives in the men's rented house blew up by mistake Tuesday. Surveillance video showed the three men leaving their destroyed house just after the first blast.

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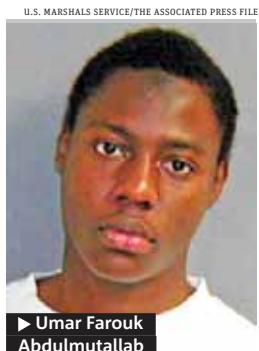
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'Underwear bomber' given life sentence

Defiantly declaring "a day of victory," a Nigerian man was given a mandatory life sentence Thursday for trying to blow up a packed jetliner with a bomb sewn into his underwear. People aboard the flight testified that the failed attack had disturbed their sleep and travels for more than two years.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was the same remorseless man who four months ago pleaded guilty to all charges related to Northwest Airlines Flight 253.

The 25-year-old, European-educated son of a wealthy banker, Abdulmutallab tried to set off the bomb minutes before the



► Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab

Amsterdam-to-Detroit flight landed.

Had the bomb not fizzled, nearly 300 people aboard the flight would probably have been killed.

Before Thursday's sen-

tencing, four passengers and a crew member from the flight told U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds that they have struggled to live and travel normally since the incident on Christmas Day 2009.

During their remarks, Abdulmutallab rarely looking up from his seat just a few metres away.

Abdulmutallab "has never expressed doubt or regret or remorse about his mission," Edmunds said.

Life in prison is a "just punishment for what he has done," the judge said. "The defendant poses a significant ongoing threat to the safety of American citizens everywhere."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunmen storm Nigerian prison

Armed gunmen from a radical Islamist sect stormed a federal prison in Nigeria amid heavy gunfire and explosions, killing one guard and freeing 119 inmates in an assault marking its growing national ambitions, officials said Thursday.

The sect known as Boko Haram claimed it freed seven followers in the attack that happened just after 7 p.m. Wednesday in the town of Koton-Karifi, just south of Nigeria's capital Abuja. Though authorities declined to say the attack was the work of the group, it mirrored another massive prison break or-

chestrated by the sect in 2010.

The gunmen blasted through the prison's gate with a bomb and killed one guard in a firefight, officials said. Those inside the prison escaped in the fighting, though authorities had recaptured about 25 of them by late Thursday afternoon, local prison official Hadiza Aminu said.

The government said an investigation had begun into the attack.

"It might be that some of the armed robbers are trying to free the armed robbers there awaiting trial," Nigeria Prisons Service spokesman Kayode Odeye-

mi said.

However, a spokesman using the nom de guerre Abul-Qaqa claimed the attack Thursday night in a conference call with journalists in Maiduguri, the sect's spiritual home in Nigeria's arid and dusty northeast.

Wednesday night's attack matched one Boko Haram launched in Bauchi state in September 2010 that freed about 700 inmates there. The sect spokesman said Thursday night attacks would continue until Nigeria's weak federal government releases all its detained members. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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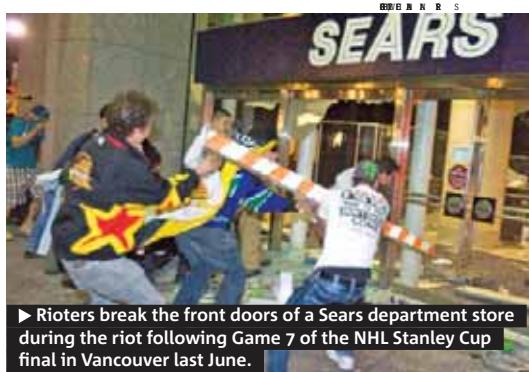
Man convicted in cup riot gets 17 months

► 20-year-old is first person to be sentenced ► Crown has approved charges against a total of 47 people

The first person convicted in Vancouver's Stanley Cup riot was sentenced Thursday to 17 months in jail after admitting to joining the mob that left a path of destruction throughout the city's downtown core.

Ryan Dickinson, 20, pleaded guilty to participating in a riot, as well as breaching bail conditions from an unrelated assault charge.

He admitted to using a road barricade and a newspaper box to damage an unmarked police car, and then later tossing a mannequin and a newspaper



► Rioters break the front doors of a Sears department store during the riot following Game 7 of the NHL Stanley Cup final in Vancouver last June.

box at the window of a clothing store several blocks away.

The Crown had asked for as much as 18 months in jail, arguing that everyone who participated that night must be punished for all of the damage the riot caused, regardless of their individual level of involvement.

The Crown labelled Dickinson an "instigator," casting him as an angry young man who appeared

on video presented in court to be enjoying the violence.

Provincial court judge Malcolm MacLean rejected Dickinson's suggestion that he was merely "caught up in the moment."

After jail, he'll be on probation for two years, MacLean ruled.

So far, police have recommended charges against a total of 125 people, but Crown counsel has only approved charges against 47.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Wikileaks' may have Commons link

The Twitter stunt that revealed sleazy details about Public Safety Minister Vic Toews' acrimonious divorce proceedings appears to have emanated from the House of Commons.

In a web-savvy investigation, the Ottawa Citizen traced the Internet Proto-

col address attached to the Wikileaks30 Twitter account to a Commons computer.

The newspaper also discovered the IP address is attached to a House employee who

DAVID VAN DYKE/
METRO ILLUSTRATION

edits Wikipedia articles "often giving them what appears to be a pro-NDP bias."

Wikileaks30's Twitter postings began in earnest Tuesday night, an uber-public response to the Internet surveillance legislation — Protecting Children from Internet Predators Act — tabled by Toews.

Tweets divulged Toews' alleged infidelities while married to Lorraine Fehr, whom he divorced in 2010 after a 32-year union.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Patient gets wish

Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres granted would-be lung transplant patient Hélène Campbell's wish Thursday morning by talking about organ donation, but went a step further with a surprise interview via Skype from her set in Los Angeles.

Campbell was so surprised she had to ask her mom to increase her oxygen tank's flow to help her breath. The 20-year-old has idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and only has 24 per cent lung capacity. She is waiting for a double lung transplant. ● METRO OTTAWA

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No guarantee GM's 2012 will match historic 2011

► Record profits could mean expansion in Canada if sales keep growing



PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

General Motors earned its biggest profit ever in 2011, but signs are emerging that its momentum could slow.

Strong sales in the U.S. and China helped the car-

maker turn a profit of \$7.6 billion US, beating its old record of \$6.7 billion in 1997 during the pickup-truck and SUV boom.

Yet the company lost

ground in the fourth quarter. Its profit fell eight per cent and missed Wall Street expectations. Europe and South America reported losses. And sales growth in the U.S. slowed even as more Americans bought cars and trucks.

Still, GM is a vastly different company than it was in the late 1990s. It's smaller, has less debt and its contract with the United Auto Workers is less costly. But it

took a government bailout and bankruptcy protection in 2009 to cut its bloated costs. The company made record money last year even though U.S. sales were near historic lows of 12.8 million cars and trucks.

This year, GM expects to increase its revenue as global sales grow and it charges more for models. However, it will make less money as sales shift to cars from trucks. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Plan for Greek debt not good enough: Diplomat

A European diplomat says current plans to help Greece with its debt load would still leave the country with debt of 129 per cent of economic output in 2020.

That's far above the 120 per cent level that euro-zone leaders in October said was the maximum that could be considered sustainable.

The diplomat says international debt inspectors estimate in a new report that Greece's promised austerity efforts, a 100-billion-euro debt relief from private investors and a

130-billion-euro bailout, fail to reduce the country's debt sufficiently.

He says several options were being discussed to bring the debt closer to the 2020 target.

These include help from the European Central Bank, lower interest rates on bailout loans, and helping Greece with an upcoming 5.5-billion-euro interest payment to bondholders.

The diplomat was speaking on condition of anonymity because the figures are confidential.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minor leak keeps Enbridge pipelines offline

Two Enbridge Inc. pipelines were offline Thursday after the major crude shipper said it discovered a small leak in Michigan.

The spill of less than three barrels was found during planned

maintenance-inspection and repair work to Line 5 on Wednesday, near the village of Sterling, Mich.

"The pipeline repair and cleanup began immediately," spokeswoman Lorraine Little said.

Line 1, a 237,000 barrel-per-day line from Edmonton to Superior, has also been shut down due to a backup of crude at Superior. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Obama's popularity up with the economy

President Barack Obama's approval ratings are keeping pace with the improving U.S. economy, helped as well by the growing turmoil in the Republican contest for the nomination to challenge him in November.

While the Republicans fiercely battle one another, the president was expected

to collect more than \$8 million US from fundraising events that will take him from Los Angeles and San Francisco on Thursday to the Seattle area on Friday.

During a fundraiser, Obama told about 125 donors that his 2008 campaign had brought with it "a sense of possibility" for moving the



► People hold up signs along the highway in the Corona del Mar section of Newport Beach, Calif., Thursday prior to the arrival of President Obama for a fundraiser. **MARK RIGGINS/THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



► This screen shot shows the msnNOW Discovery page.

MSN focusing on the here and NOW

Microsoft is hooking up MSN.com with a hipper sidekick to broaden its appeal and stay on top of the Internet's hottest topics.

The trend-tracking service, called msnNOW, tunes into the buzz by sifting through millions of Internet searches and links circulating among the hordes on Facebook and Twitter. The chatter is then distilled into the equivalent of a digital wa-

ter cooler — a place where people can go to keep in touch without taking up a lot of their time. After months of development, the new feature debuts Thursday at now.msn.com.

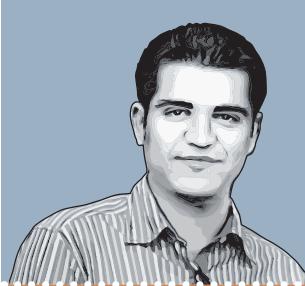
The service is aimed at older teens and young adults who are increasingly relying on smartphones and other mobile devices to remain plugged into what's being talked about. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Market moment

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In the polls

- The Gallup polling organization showed the president with equal approval and disapproval ratings of 45 per cent.
- A New York Times/CBS poll shows he has 50 per cent approval. But when it comes to how Obama has handled the economy, 44 per cent approve and 50 per cent do not.



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Oil-price spike felt globally

The price of oil has surged 12 per cent the past six weeks, pushed up by tensions with Iran, a cold snap in Europe and rising demand from developing nations.

The surge is hitting home. Oil is raising the price of gasoline for U.S. motorists. It's also making diesel and jet fuel costlier for shippers and travellers. That could

crimp already modest growth in the economy.

Brent crude, which is used to price foreign oil imported by U.S. refineries, rose \$1.08 US to \$120.01 per barrel on Thursday.

It's up 12 per cent so far this year and 15 per cent from a year ago. West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark, rose 52 cents to \$102.32 on Thurs-

day. It's up 21 per cent from a year ago.

The climb has been caused by fears that a military conflict will erupt in the Middle East and block oil supplies from reaching markets.

The U.S. and Europe are tightening economic sanctions against Iran over what the West believes is Iran's attempt to build a nuclear bomb.

Also, a severe cold snap has gripped Central Europe this year, increasing demand for heating oil and helping push Brent prices higher.

That in turn contributes to high gasoline prices in the U.S., since many refineries use Brent to make gasoline. Gas prices are up about 25 cents this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► A Cabot Oil and Gas natural-gas drill stands at a hydraulic fracturing site in South Montrose, Pa.



Surfwear retailer to cut jobs

Surfwear retailer Billabong International Ltd. says it will shed 400 jobs worldwide and close dozens of loss-making stores as it tries to restore its flagging fortunes in a tough retail market.

The cost-cutting drive and a decision to sell half of its Nixon Inc. watches and accessories brand was announced as the company Friday reported a 71 per cent dive in six-month earnings to \$17.3 million US.

Billabong has 677 stores worldwide and says it could close between 100 and 150 stores that are losing money or performing weakly. It hopes to reduce its annual costs by AU\$30 million. The company received a takeover offer from private equity company TPG Capital, but said it was uncertain the deal would go ahead.

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Asian stocks higher

Asian stocks were mostly higher in Friday trading after encouraging U.S. housing and employment reports sent Wall Street to its highest level this year and added to growing optimism of a recovery in the world's No. 1 economy.

Oil extended gains above \$102 a barrel and the dollar strengthened against the euro and yen. Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 index jumped 1.7 per cent to 9,397.57. Seoul's Kospi rose 1.5 per cent to 2,027.81 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 0.7 per cent to 21,425.93. Sydney's S&P/ASX 200 climbed 0.3 per cent to 4,195.80. Investors in Asia took heart following solid gains on U.S. markets on Thursday that also pushed away fears that long-running bailout talks for debt-stricken Greece might collapse.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

West Coast timber company loses \$10.6M from operations

West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd. reported a \$10.6-million loss from operations in its latest quarter reversing a profit a year ago as the lumber producer's sales dropped nearly 10 per cent.

The Vancouver-based forestry company said late Thursday its operating loss amounted to 25 cents per

share for the three months ended Dec. 31.

That compared with a profit of \$27.8 million or 65 cents per share a year earlier. Sales totalled \$650 million, down from \$719.1 million.

"We ended a challenging year with a difficult quarter as markets for our products

continue to be unsettled," West Fraser chairman and chief executive Hank Ketcham said in a statement after markets closed.

"We are very encouraged with the results of our capital investment program as well as the continued commitment of our employees to West Fraser's long-term

success."

Including its discontinued operations, boosted by the sale of assets from its linerboard and kraft paper mill in Kitimat, B.C., that it closed in January 2010, West Fraser reported a profit of \$6.1 million or 14 cents per share for the quarter ended Dec. 31.

That was down 86 per cent from a profit of \$43 million or \$1 per share a year ago.

The results included a \$16.7-million gain in the quarter related to discontinued operations compared with a gain of \$15.2 million a year ago.

West Fraser, which has

operations in Western Canada and the southern United States, produces lumber, wood chips, plywood, pulp and newsprint.

Shares in the company, which reported its results after the close of markets, were up 57 cents at \$46.35 on the TSX on Thursday.

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Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN



Oscars 'crystallized'

► Richard Crouse and Mark Breslin share their thoughts on Billy Crystal reprising his role as Oscar host ► And they place their bets on best picture

Richard: We talked about the Oscars a few weeks ago, but we didn't touch on Billy Crystal coming back as host. I loved the old Crystal shows, but really hope he finds a new fresh approach for this year. I'm not interested in seeing him do another opening montage where he inserts himself into the nominated footage. What do you, oh comedy guru, hope he does with the show?

Mark: Oh, Richard, you know he's gonna do it; this time in black and white, in flip-flops and silent. Those montage sequences are like a drug to him — his name is Crystal, after all. It'll be

old and hoary, but at least there will be some laughs. Of course, Billy's getting so old he'll have to turn his hearing aid up extremely loud and the teleprompter will have to be incredibly close. Your prediction on Best Picture, Richard?

RC: The Artist was the most fun I had at the movies last year but I'm not sure that means it deserves a best picture win. I think it will take it because it has won all the guild awards, but in my heart it's between Moneyball and Tree of Life. What's your choice?

MB: My choice is The Descendants, a movie of great

maturity and mid-tone emotion. I had considered it a shoo-in until recently, because I thought The Artist was original to the point of gimmickry. But now I think The Artist is going to take it. It's a movie I liked a lot, but it's not very subtle. As far as Tree of Life goes, I thought it was pretentious hooey. And I heard they used non-union dinosaurs.

RC: Pretentious hooey! I accept that the birth of the universe sequence separates the men from the film snobs, but I loved how evocative of childhood it was. It captured something deeply emotional, even

Synopsis

With just a few more sleeps until the biggest night in Hollywood, this week the Reel Guys breakdown the show; from the host to who should win and who will win best picture.



Scene in brief



Once again Nicholas Cage turns up the heat as Johnny Blaze, the stunt biker who sacrifices his soul and becomes a fiery vigilante. This time he's hiding out in eastern Europe and joins a group of rebel monks to save a boy from the devil. Johnny Whitworth (of Empire Records fame) takes on the role of bad guy Ray Carrigan, who becomes Blackout.

• METRO



Oprah Winfrey joins Jimmy Kimmel's post-Oscar special



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RING MAY NOT BE EXACTLY AS SHOWN

Script for Goon came from a 'pure place'

A year-and-a-half ago Jay Baruchel told me he was writing a script for what he said would be the best hockey movie since the 1977 crowd favourite *Slap Shot*.

The resulting film is *Goon*, a new comedy tribute to the most misunderstood sports stars — the hockey enforcer. When I ask him if he could still make that boast now that the movie was finished he said, "With a doubt. Unquestionably."

"I go so far as to say we have the best hockey in any hockey movie."

"It has teeth and it hits you in the head like a two-by-four. It's loud. It's coarse. It's violent. But none of what I just mentioned would work or be relevant if you didn't care about what was happening. The



► Goon pays respect to the hockey enforcer's job.

most important thing about this movie is, and I hate using this word because it is so overused, but how much heart it has."

Shot in Manitoba, the movie stars American Pie's Seann William Scott as Doug Glatt, a semi-professional hockey player who can not only give a beating, but take one as well.

"It is an anthem to the most maligned, least understood position in professional sports," says Baruchel, "that of the hockey enforcer. I grew up with not just an appreciation but an inherent respect for

what they did, so I decided these boys deserved their moment in the sun."

"That's why (the movie) is as violent as it is because it is not a clean job they do. Just like a soldier who leaves and runs the risk of not coming home this guy runs the risk of having some very terrible injuries inflicted on him every time he skates."

"We're not passing some moral judgment on it aside from (the idea that) we could take a lesson from these boys about their humble blue-collar work ethic."

• RICHARD CROUSE

Stifler, in skates

► Seann William Scott is known for his lug-head characters ► But he has some highbrow tastes, too

Seann William Scott is best known for playing Steve 'Stifmeister' Stifler in the American Pie series of movies.

The character was a hard partying lug-head, who, according to the direct-to-DVD sequel *Band Camp*, became a porno director.

His specialty in films like *Road Trip*, *Dude*, *Where's My Car?* and *The Dukes of Hazzard* is playing hapless stoners and lug-heads so it may surprise you that his DVD player is currently hosting *La Vie en Rose*.

That's right, the life story of singer Edith Piaf.

"That may be my favourite movie of all time," he says.

I tell him I once interviewed the movie's star Marion Cotillard.

"Is she hot?" he asks. "I have such a huge crush on her."

"She's got a boyfriend though. I went on the computer and looked up who she's dating. A serious boyfriend for a long time."

"Sucks."

That's the Seann William Scott audiences know and love.

As an actor he usually finds the unexpected angle on a joke, and knows how to reel the viewer in.

We have a laugh before moving on to talk about his new film *Goon*.

He plays a hockey enforcer even though he didn't grow up with the sport.

"I'm more of a fan now," he says.

"When I grew up in Minnesota I played baseball, football and basketball. So in the wintertime that's what I played, which is odd, because it's Minnesota."

"All my friends played hockey and I was always envious because all the girls liked the hockey players."

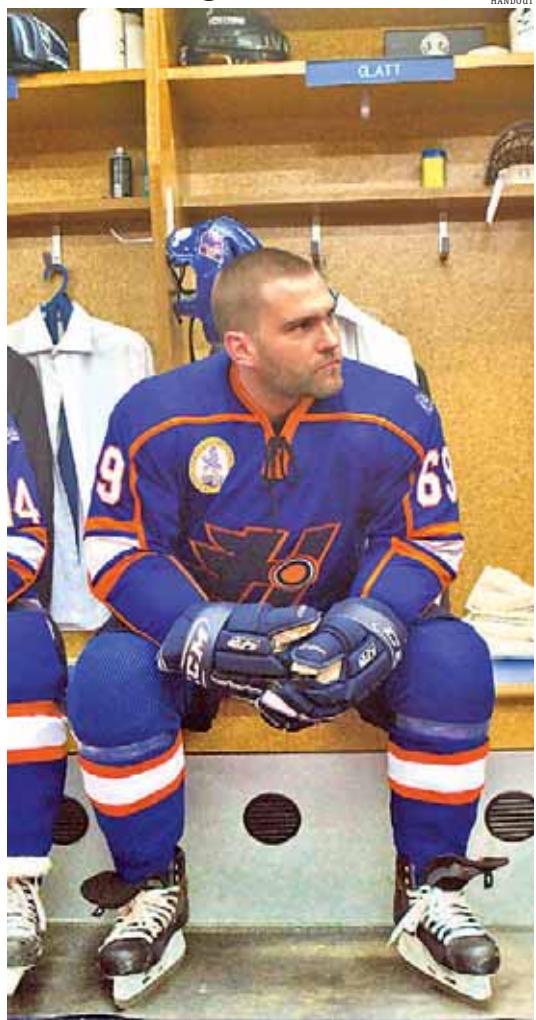
SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT

think the relationship between the players is way cool.

"The guys are just closer and there is a sense of humour about it."

"Maybe it's a more manly sport than basketball ..."

"I'm sure a lot of basketball players won't appreciate that."



► Seann William Scott stars in *Goon*.

"All my friends played hockey and I was always envious because all the girls liked the hockey players."

SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT

On shooting
in Winnipeg

How did Seann William Scott like filming just north of home?

"I expected it to be like Minnesota, but the girls were hotter in Winnipeg," he says. "They dress better and they're a little more hip. I was confused. Minnesota is just below. How'd they get so hip? I think they just eat better. They're not stuffing cheese curds down their throats."

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**The Secret World of Arrietty**

Genre: Animation
Director: Hiromasa Yonebayashi
Stars: Bridgit Mendler, Amy Poehler, Will Arnett
½

Already a hit in Asia, The Secret World of Arrietty makes its North American debut with a new voice cast — including Carol Burnett — but the gorgeous animation intact. The story of a young ailing boy who

discovers tiny people living beneath the floorboards of his house is gently-paced kid's entertainment. The story unfurls slowly, scenes take their time to develop and the animation is classic, not frenetic. The Secret World of Arrietty may be a tad on the slow side for kids over the age of 10, but for the younger ones it's a wildly imaginative introduction to anime and fantasy storytelling.

• RICHARD CROUSE

**This Means War**

Genre: Comedy/Action
Director: McG
Stars: Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine, Tom Hardy

Sure to be one of the most contrived films of the year, This Means War features two buddy CIA operatives (Chris Pine, Tom Hardy) competing for the same woman (Reese Witherspoon).

In short, the romantic-actioner is Bridget Jones' Diary meets Mr. & Mrs. Smith — only its

miles from being as watchable as either.

And as phony as the romance plays, the action doesn't add much lift to ease the pain.

Full of lame set-ups and unbelievable situations (a government agent with a condo that would make Donald Trump jealous? Really?), this groaner doesn't hold an ounce of plausibility and concludes as disappointing as a box of rancid Valentine candy.

• STEVE GOW

Pina

Genre: Documentary
Director: Wim Wenders
Stars: Pina Bausch, Regina Advento, Mailu Airaudo

Pina is a rare film that actually benefits from the 3D format. Director Wim Wenders' examination of German choreographer Pina Bausch, who died during pre-production, is a character study mas-

querading as a ballet.

Mixing archival footage with beautiful scenes of her Tanztheater Wuppertal ensemble performing her creations (both on-stage and in the outdoors), Wenders uses dance to capture his subject's spirit. Dance enthusiasts will marvel at this film; there's more than just elaborate body movement on display here. • IAN GORMELY

**W.E.**

Genre: Drama
Director: Madonna
Stars: Andrea Riseborough, James D'Arcy

Madonna's second film as a director is an ambitious but unsatisfying look at two love affairs. Cutting between 1990s New York and the 1930s love affair between Wallis Simpson and

King Edward VIII, W.E. struggles to make a connection between the dueling story threads.

• RICHARD CROUSE


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Wed 3:10-5:30-8:10-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

The Woman in Black (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:20-9:50**EAU CLAIRE MARKET**
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Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (STC) Fri 3:30-6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:50-9:50 Mon 3:30-6:50-9:40 Tue-Thu 6:50-9:40

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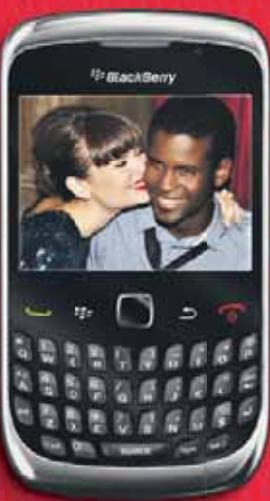
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An angel and demon

► You know Florence as the ethereal performer with the otherworldly voice ► But underneath she's a girl who could party circles around you

 **KENYA HUNT**
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Once, during the haze that has been Florence Welch's never-ending touring life, she had an especially wild after-party. She can't remember when it occurred exactly or what went down during.

"But I remember afterward. I lost a tooth! Well, I chipped it. But I don't know how! There was a party. And there was a bill. I accidentally set fire to the hotel room with a tea light. And all I know is that the bar bill from the hotel was more expensive than the fire bill," she says, a twinge of disbelief still colouring her voice.

"That was the most extreme hangover I've ever had. Try imagining those calls in the morning."

Florence — she of the critically adored, monastically successful Florence and the Machine albums *Lungs* and *Ceremonials* — is only 25. But she has the war stories of an aging rock star. And in certain ways, she comes off like one, too — more 1960s Rolling Stones than Adele. It's a mesmerizing wildness that you don't see with groomed pop idols anymore.

And yet Florence's joie de vivre coexists with a kind of well-worn pragmatism that comes with the weight of life and responsibility.

"I ended up deciding to



► Florence Welch rose to international fame with her band's hit *Dog Days are Over* when she was barely more than 20 years old.

drink less while I was touring," she says. "It was for my voice. It's really hard to sing and keep up the pace that we were going at. It's OK for the first bits when you don't know where you're going. But now that I have more of an idea of the longevity of it, I'd like to have a career like PJ Harvey or Björk who are still producing albums and have these voices. I realized if I wanted to have a career like theirs, I'd have to temper my indulgences."

The vintage rocker side of Welch comes, in part,

from her dad, who made his career in advertising but tried his hand at music when he was young.

He introduced little Florence to bands like Velvet Underground and Love and it paid off.

He got to live vicariously through his daughter when he drove her band's van around Europe during their first tour. (Florence's siblings and step-family, whom she's really close to, often accompany her on the road and her sister works as her PA.) "We definitely didn't have to tone

things down when he was around," she says.

After becoming a global success very quickly after *Lungs*, which went platinum many times over, Florence reportedly had a bout of depression. But today, she's not in the mood for self-examination. And she's not necessarily haunted by the demons and angels she sings about. "Though I do believe one can have them internally," she admits. And she could care less whether her glass is half empty or full: "I'd rather drink the glass and figure it out."

WHERE DOES INDIE MUSIC GO FROM HERE?

SOUND CHECK

 **ALAN CROSS**
SCENE
@METRONEWS.CA

When Justin "Bon Iver" Vernon began writing his second album, he didn't set out to win a Grammy. Out there in Wisconsin, he simply wanted to document the feelings in his heart. Maybe a few people would be interested enough to buy his music and then come out to a gig or two.

Imagine, then, what must have been going through his mind last Sunday night. Vernon is about as indie as they come in sound, style, aesthetic, attitude, history and image. His two wins at the Grammys demonstrate how, after years of being on the outside, indie music is now receiving mainstream attention.

Indie folk — and here I'm speaking as one of them — feel, rightly or wrongly, a certain sense of ownership when it comes to the artists we discover and nurture. We root for them to become big — but not too big because that would somehow sour our relationship with them. If, heaven forbid, they became commercial stars, wouldn't



that make them no better than the dreckish Justin Bieber and Lady Gaga? No, the band hasn't changed; it just that, well, circumstances are different. Share? Us? No!

It's silly, of course, but that's often the prevailing attitude.

One of the best lyric fragments comes from the Sloan song *Coax Me*. It goes "It's not the band I hate/it's their fans." So far, artists like Arcade Fire and Bon Iver have managed to retain their indie cred despite being commercially successful. Will their old fans stick with them? Or will they bail in favour of something newer, cooler and less popular? We'll see.

ALAN IS THE HOST OF THE RADIO SHOW *THE SECRET HISTORY OF ROCK*. REACH HIM AT ALAN@ALANCROSS.CA

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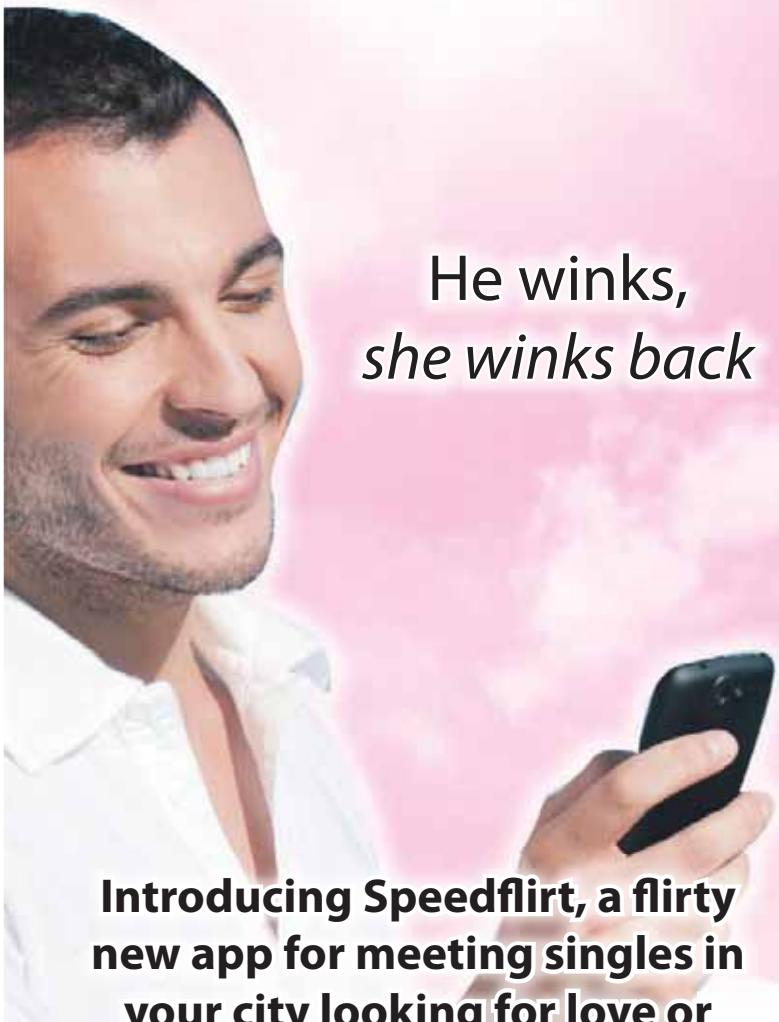
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Is the zombie apocalypse near?

► Walking Dead star Andrew Lincoln says even his wife doesn't know the answer to the show's big mystery

Andrew Lincoln, who stars as Sheriff Rick Grimes in The Walking Dead, says he loves a secret.

That's partly why Lincoln has told no one the answer to what's become the biggest mystery of the AMC zombie drama: What scientist Dr. Jenner whispered to Rick in the season one finale.

"Not even my wife knows what he whispered to me," Lincoln said in an interview Wednesday.

Lincoln said that in keeping the secret he feels he is being true to his character in the show.

"He chooses not to tell people so why would I

tell," Lincoln said of the sheriff.

What was said has only been heard by a handful of people, and the mystery has become the object of intense scrutiny by fans.

Lincoln said he realized just how curious people were when a show editor revealed he had scrolled through hours of show

footage and listened in on radio traffic to find the only two takes where the brief remarks were audible. The cast says the contents of the conversation will be revealed this season.

Lincoln, who says the comments are "pivotal" for Rick, hints that the message was not good news.

"This is a scientist who seemingly held all the cards to what this epidemic is about and I do think, you know, you would imagine

"This is a scientist who seemingly held all the cards to what this epidemic is about... you would imagine he would have something of value to say on that matter. Well, he chose to kill himself."

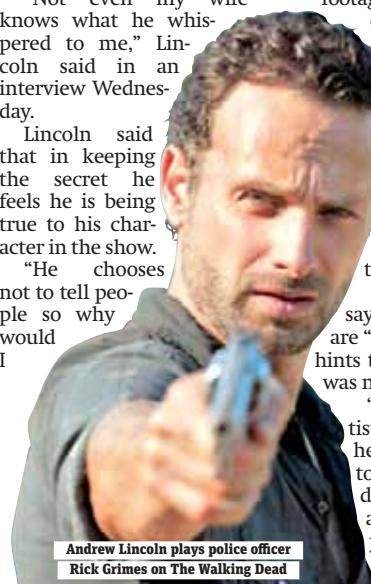
ANDREW LINCOLN, ON WHAT HIS CHARACTER LEARNED FROM DR. JENNER ON THE WALKING DEAD

he would have something of value to say on that matter," Lincoln said. "Well, he chose to kill himself."

The actor also said that Rick and his ragged group of survivors will likely leave the farm where they've taken refuge this season.

"Something happens and they realize very quickly that the farm is not as secure as they may think," he said.

The series continues Sunday at 9 p.m. Eastern.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Andrew Lincoln plays police officer Rick Grimes on The Walking Dead

TV picks



Enter Gervais... as a dolphin

ONLY ON FAMILY GUY. British funnyman Ricky Gervais stops by Family Guy Sunday night to play... a dolphin? Yes, the Golden Globes host will portray a marine mammal who moves to Quahog and overstays his welcome at Peter's place. (Fox, Global)

The curious case of great movies on TV

YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY TURN OFF NETFLIX. If you're in the mood for a movie Saturday night, there's no good reason to get off your couch. For those seeking blockbuster thrills, try the slick rebooted version of Star Trek, airing on Showcase, or the Academy Award-winning 2008 Batman flick The Dark Knight, on Peachtree TV. If it's Oscar-certified prestige pictures you're after, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button airs on Bravo while 1995's Braveheart is on AMC. Finally, those in search of lighter fare might enjoy The School of

Rock on GameTV or the Jennifer Garner comedy 13 Going on 30, airing on MuchMusic.

A new funnyman

SNL WRITER. The title of John Mulaney's stand-up comedy special, New in Town, is apt given that few people probably know who he is (even though the name actually refers to a hilarious anecdote). But comedy fans would do well to check out the Saturday Night Live writer's first special, airing Saturday, in which he cleverly mines comic gold from a wide range of seemingly mundane topics, whether he's talking about Home Alone 2 or the simple joy of doing nothing. (Comedy Network) THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ay, caramba! Simpsons mark another milestone

► 500th episode of Simpsons to air Sunday on Global

 **Cassandra Garrison**
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

It's hard to believe that we've been hearing Bart Simpson say "Eat my shorts" since 1989, but the world will be graced with the 500th episode of The

Simpsons this Sunday on Global.

The episode, titled At Long Last Leave, will find the Simpsons driven out of their beloved hometown of Springfield when their fellow neighbours finally give them the boot.

The Simpsons join a

community from the other side of the tracks and make an unsuccessful attempt to return to Springfield.

Look for a cameo from WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, as himself. A special feature song by Alison Krauss will also be included.

Your faves...



What is your favourite Simpsons episode? Metro asked our readers and Twitter followers to send in their picks.



► Laur008: the one where Bart gets his fake license "that's it! Back to #Winnipeg" is a classic #Simpsons line.



► Sauszy: Far too many to choose BUT favourites include 'Rosebud' 'Homer's Phobia' and 'Homer At The Bat'



► Taraliane: Top 3: Deep Space Homer, Cape Fear, A Fish Called Selma



► elocin8: fav Simpson's episode: when Ralph gives Lisa a Valentine's "I choo-choo-choose you!" Super cute #simpsons

Speedflirt

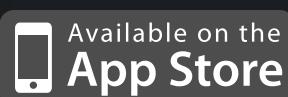
She flirts,
He flirts back



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'I promise I won't beat you'

► Chris Brown has an awful new pick-up line, according to Us Weekly

THE WORD

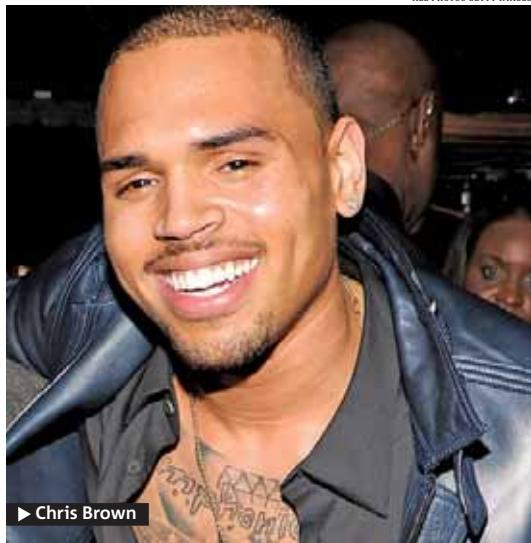
DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Here's the thing about Chris Brown and The Word: Yes, he brutally beat his then-girlfriend Rihanna in 2009.

But the man served the sentence our judicial system thought was fair and so he should be allowed to get on with his life and music without a stupid gossip columnist dredging it up all the time.

My prerogative is that we all know he's a cowardly woman beater. Do with that information what you will.

Except the idiot continues to open his big mouth and make jokes about domestic violence and so,



► Chris Brown

sorry, I can't drop it.

According to Us Weekly, Brown has a totally romantic new pick-up line. A woman tells the magazine

that Brown approached her on Feb. 10 at the Grammys gift lounge to ask for her number.

"Can I get your num-

ber? I promise I won't beat you," the woman said Brown told her.

"He and his friends laughed, then one yelled, 'That's his new line!'" she said. "I wanted to throw up."

There are many ways I would like to respond to this stupid, hurtful and awful running joke of Brown's but I don't have the space. I'll just say: It is my sincere hope that one day Chris Brown has a daughter and maybe, just maybe, he will feel sick at the thought of any man laying a hand on her. And then he will finally realize just what a terrible thing he did in his past and will finally know that making flippant asides about beating women is not OK.

But somehow, even then, I don't think he'll get it.



Just what was Whitney on?

In the investigation into what exactly caused Whitney Houston's death, investigators are reportedly interviewing the late singer's doctors about what sort of medications had been prescribed, according to the Associated Press.

"We've already contacted a number of doctors with requests for records," a coroner's official confirms, adding that such a move is common in investigations such as this one. The move brings to mind the investigation into Michael Jackson's death, which resulted in his doctor, Conrad Murray, being convicted on manslaughter charges.

Funeral

► The rumours that Bobby Brown might not be on the invite list for ex-wife Whitney Houston's funeral on Saturday are "totally untrue," a family source tells People. "He is not being banned. That's completely untrue," says the source. Another family friend tells the magazine: "Bobby will be there at the funeral to support his (and Houston's) daughter (Bobbi Kristina Brown, 18). There was some talk ... some people were angry at him, but that's just grief. He will be there." ● METRO

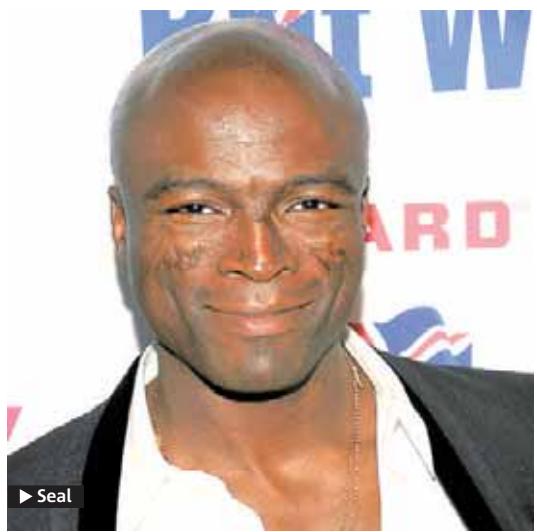
Seal takes off his wedding ring

The reality of wife Heidi Klum's divorce filing must be starting to set in for Seal, as the singer was spotted not wearing his wedding ring for the first time, according to Us Weekly.

Seal arrived in Australia this week without the band on his finger. He'd

been wearing it defiantly after Klum's separation announcement last month.

"Just because we have decided to separate doesn't necessarily mean you take off your ring and you're no longer connected to that person," Seal told Ellen DeGeneres in an interview at the time. ● METRO



► Seal

Celebrity tweets



my house has become a soup kitchen for wayward Raccoons...now serving 8 of em twice a day...just in case u missing them, there over here



@kirstiealley



man cheats on wife, marries his mistress, runs for president and gets an ovation for being insane...only in americana



@Joan_Rivers

It's times like these that you wish Manolo Blahnik made a wading boot.

What will become of the SkyMall catalogue when there are actually malls in the sky?

Angelina gets death threats

Angelina Jolie and the actors who star in her directorial debut, *In the Land of Blood and Honey*, have been receiving death threats over the film's content, according to The Guardian.

"There were things sent to me, there were things posted online," Jolie says. "The cast have never complained to me about these threats but I've heard through other people it was



Angelina Jolie

happening. One of them did have their windows smashed in on their cars and someone else had an issue when their phone

was hacked and emails were sent out saying they were from them and saying they had been hurt."

● METRO

Rumer speaks out

Rumer Willis is finally speaking out about mom Demi Moore's drug-related hospitalization and current rehab stint in Utah.

"My mother is on the road to recovery. It's slow going but we believe in her," Willis tells Germany's TZ online.

"Of course the situation weighs heavily on me." Willis is alleged to have been at home with Moore when an ambulance had to be called to rush Moore to the hospital. ● METRO



► Rumer Willis



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More than beads



Hours before New Orleans' Carnival parade, ice chests are filled with food and drink, grills are fired up and the Mardi Gras equivalent of the world's biggest tailgate party gets under way.

After Carnival season wraps, many New Orleans locals give up their favourite foods for Lent. That makes Mardi Gras a great time to consume everything from gumbo and fired chicken to crawfish and pork chops, topped with King Cake and washed down with beer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the name of tradition



PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

You have to love a celebration that can combine beads, boobs and beverages, and still stay classy. OK, while Mardi Gras may not be the textbook example of class, it certainly is a world-renowned party.

Many revellers wandering the streets of New Orleans during the festivities will be enjoying a Hurricane — the city's hallmark cocktail.

Invented in the 1940s by French Quarter bar owner Pat O'Brien, it's a mix of rum and fruit juices served in a glass resembling a hurricane lamp.

The recipe is simple to make:

- 1 oz white rum
- 1 oz dark rum
- 2 oz passion fruit juice
- 1 oz orange juice
- ½ oz fresh lime juice
- 1 tbsp simple syrup
- 1 tbsp grenadine
- 1 orange slice & cherry

Shake all the ingredients together with ice and strain into an ice-filled glass. Garnish with the cherry and orange slice.

My alternative version adds half an ounce of Bacardi 151° Over-proof Amber Rum (\$34.99 - \$44.95) to the mix. It kicks the drink into overdrive. PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



Beads, booze and jambalaya

► New Orleans' Mardi Gras celebrations take place on Tuesday ► If you can't get there, enjoy a taste from home with this Southern favourite

This bowl full of colour and flavour is made even better with the addition of catfish.

The jambalaya should be thick. If it's too thin, simmer it uncovered until some liquid evaporates.

Preparation:

1 In a Dutch oven or a wide saucepan heat oil over

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
- ½ lb (250 g) mild or hot Italian sausage, cut into 1/2-inch (1-cm) pieces
- ½ lb (250 g) smoked ham or kielbasa, cut into 1-inch (2.5-cm) pieces
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 celery stalk, chopped
- 1 large green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 4 cups (1L) low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 can (28 oz/796 mL) diced tomatoes
- 1 ½ tsp (7 mL) thyme
- ½ tsp (2 mL) basil leaves
- 1 tsp (5 mL) each dried oregano leaves and hot pepper sauce
- 1 ½ cups (375 mL) uncooked long-grain rice
- 2 lbs (1 kg) Catfish fillets, cut into pieces about 1 ½ - inches (3.5-cm)
- Salt to taste



Mardi Gras Catfish Jambalaya

► The recipe serves six to eight people.

medium heat. Add sausage and cook until lightly browned. Add ham, onion, celery, green pepper and garlic, cook, stirring for about 8 to 10 minutes.

2 Stir in broth, tomatoes, herbs and hot pepper sauce. Bring to boil. Add rice. Cover and simmer, 15 minutes or until rice is partially cooked. Stir in catfish pieces and bring back to simmer. Cover

and cook 15 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork and rice is tender. Remove from heat; cover and let stand for 5 minutes. Add salt to taste before serving.

U.S. FARM-RAISED CATFISH

► Honour revelry of Mardi Gras by topping Sweet Potato Bread Pudding with Whiskey Hard Sauce while it's still warm ► Adding potatoes to the bread pudding results in a golden hue

Preparation:

1 Whiskey Hard Sauce: In bowl, use electric mixer to beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in bourbon, vanilla and salt until smooth and creamy. Cover and set aside.

2 Coat 2-L (8 cup) baking dish with cooking spray.

3 In bowl, toss raisin bread with pecans, then set aside. In another bowl, mix granulated sugar,

cinnamon, mace, nutmeg and salt. Toss sugar mix over bread and pecans, then stir well. Drizzle with melted butter and toss to distribute.

4 In another bowl, whisk 10 and 35% creams, eggs and brown sugar. Whisk in sweet potatoes and vanilla. Pour sweet potato-cream mix over bread mix and stir until well blended. Let stand 5 mins. then spoon into

prepared baking dish.

5 Bake in preheated 180 C (350 F) oven 45 to 55

Ingredients:

- 2 L (8 cups) torn or cubed stale raisin bread
- 250 ml (1 cup) coarsely chopped pecans
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) granulated sugar
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) each ground
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) unsalted butter, melted
- 500 ml (2 cups) 10% half and half cream
- 250 ml (1 cup) 35% whipping cream
- 4 eggs
- 250 ml (1 cup) brown sugar
- 250 ml (1 cup) mashed baked sweet potatoes
- 10 ml (2 tsp) vanilla

Whiskey Hard Sauce

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) unsalted butter, softened
- 250 ml (1 cup) sifted icing sugar
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) best-quality bourbon or rye
- 1 ml (1/2 tsp) vanilla
- Pinch salt



Sweet taste of New Orleans:
Recipe for Praline Beignets
with Café au Lait Icing.



LaBatte going back to Prairies

Brendon LaBatte returned home Thursday while Andy Fantuz continues to decide whether to follow suit.

LaBatte signed with the CFL's Saskatchewan Roughriders on Thursday, just over a day after becoming a free agent. The native of Weyburn, Sask., opted to return to his home province after weighing offers from the Edmonton Eskimos and Winnipeg Blue Bombers, who drafted the six-foot-four, 304-pound offensive guard four years ago.

"At the end of the day you add up all the pros and cons from all the potential scenarios. I felt that everything that mattered most is at home and that's why I chose to return," said LaBatte, who played collegiately at the University of Regina. "To be able to play in front of my friends and family and know how much this team means to this province, I mean I've lived it my whole life, I'm extremely happy."

The Riders also signed Dominic Picard on Thursday, a free-agent centre who spent the last three seasons in Toronto.

While family and home both factored in LaBatte's decision, obviously money did too. But GM Brendan Taman vehemently denied published reports LaBatte's deal was worth about \$200,000 annually.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen stops Calgary's Olli Jokinen in Dallas Thursday night.

Flames miss point in Lone Star State

► But OT loss puts Calgary into tie for points with 8th-place Phoenix at 63 ► Dallas' all-star centre Jamie Benn leaves game with knee injury

Mike Ribeiro scored at 2:01 of overtime to give the Dallas Stars a 3-2 victory over the Calgary Flames on Thursday night.

Ribeiro's slap shot from just beyond the right circle sailed over goalie Miikka Kiprusoff's shoulder for Ribeiro's 12th of the season. Ribeiro pumped his fist in celebration after the Stars broke a 1-3-1 slide.

Steve Ott and Adam Burish also scored for Dallas, and Kari Lehtonen stopped 25 shots.

Jarome Iginla scored his



team-high 23rd goal, and Mike Cammalleri also scored for Calgary. Kipru-

Dallas trade

Earlier Thursday, the Stars traded defenceman Nicklas Grossman to Philadelphia for a 2012 second-round pick and a 2013 third-round pick.

soff made 29 saves for the Flames, 4-0-3 in their last seven games.

Calgary has 63 points, two more than Dallas as the teams try to claw into the top eight in the Western Conference.

Ott gave Dallas a 2-1 edge with 2:17 left in the second period with a power-play goal, his ninth of the season. His shot from the right point got past Kiprusoff while teammate Burish provided a screen.

Dallas had the man advantage while Calgary's Olli Jokinen served a slashing penalty.

Cammalleri tied it with 5:03 left in the third with his 13th of the season, shooting into an open net on a Jay Bouwmeester pass.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gary Carter dead at age 57

Gary Carter was nicknamed "Kid" for good reason.

His smile, bubbly personality and eagerness to excel on a ballfield made him a joy to watch.

The star catcher, the first player enshrined in the Hall of Fame wearing

an Expos cap, died Thursday. He was 57.

Mets spokesman Jay Horwitz said Carter died in the West Palm Beach, Fla., area.

Carter was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour last May, two weeks after finishing his second

season as coach at Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Carter started his career with the Expos late in the 1974 season and was the face of the franchise in his 12 seasons with the team. He led Montreal to its only playoff berth in 1981.

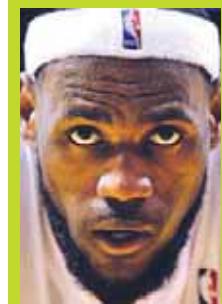
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Gary Carter is mobbed by fans in Montreal in July 1983.



Quoted



come back, hopefully the fans will accept me."

LEBRON JAMES, WHO SAID HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT A RETURN TO THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS, A TEAM HE CARRIED TO THE BRINK OF A TITLE BEFORE HE SPURNED AN ENTIRE REGION BY LEAVING AS A FREE AGENT IN 2010 TO CHASE A CHAMPIONSHIP WITH MIAMI.



Scan code for more sports.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-NY Rangers	56	37	14	1	4	158	114	79	18-7-0-2	19-7-1-2	7-2-0-1	L1
d-Boston	55	35	18	1	1	188	126	72	18-10-1-1	17-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
d-Florida	56	27	18	5	6	143	158	65	14-6-14	13-12-4-0	6-3-0-1	L1
Philadelphia	57	32	18	2	5	189	171	71	14-9-1-4	18-9-1-2	4-4-0-2	W1
Pittsburgh	57	32	20	2	3	176	150	69	17-8-2-0	15-12-0-3	6-3-0-1	L1
New Jersey	56	32	20	1	3	158	156	68	15-10-0-3	17-10-1-0	6-2-0-2	W1
Ottawa	60	30	22	6	2	179	183	68	15-11-2-1	15-11-4-1	3-5-2-0	W2
Toronto	58	29	23	3	3	176	174	64	16-9-2-2	13-14-1-1	5-4-0-1	W1
Washington	56	28	23	2	3	156	160	61	18-9-0-2	9-15-2-1	3-4-2-1	L3
Winnipeg	58	26	26	3	3	140	164	58	16-9-0-2	10-17-3-1	4-6-0-0	L2
Tampa Bay	57	25	26	3	3	161	194	56	16-9-1-1	9-17-2-2	5-3-2-0	W1
NY Islanders	57	24	25	5	3	134	160	56	12-13-5-0	12-12-1-2	5-3-1-1	L1
Montreal	58	23	25	2	8	155	158	56	11-12-6-2	12-13-0-2	5-4-0-1	L2
Buffalo	57	24	27	3	3	139	169	54	13-11-3-3	11-16-0-0	5-4-0-1	L3
Carolina	57	21	25	7	4	147	175	53	14-12-0-3	7-13-7-1	5-1-3-1	W1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	58	39	17	1	1	185	136	80	24-2-1-0	15-15-0-1	7-2-0-1	W4
d-Vancouver	57	36	15	0	6	183	140	78	17-6-0-4	19-9-0-2	8-0-0-2	W2
d-San Jose	55	31	17	4	3	163	136	69	18-9-2-0	18-8-2-3	5-3-1-1	L1
St. Louis	57	35	15	1	6	145	114	77	25-3-1-3	10-12-0-3	6-3-0-1	W1
Nashville	57	33	18	3	1	161	150	72	18-7-2-2	15-11-1-1	6-2-0-2	W1
Chicago	58	30	21	4	3	180	176	67	19-6-13	11-15-0-3	1-8-1-0	W1
Los Angeles	57	27	19	5	6	124	124	65	15-11-0-4	12-8-5-2	4-4-1-1	W1
Phoenix	57	27	21	3	6	149	149	63	14-10-2-3	13-11-1-4	6-2-0-2	L1
Calgary	57	27	22	4	4	139	152	62	16-8-1-1	11-14-3-3	6-2-1-1	W2
Colorado	58	28	26	3	1	147	162	60	16-13-0-1	12-13-0-3	3-5-1-1	L2
Dallas	56	28	25	0	3	146	160	59	15-11-0-2	13-14-0-1	4-5-0-1	L3
Minnesota	56	25	23	2	6	126	148	58	13-10-2-1	12-13-1-4	3-6-0-1	L5
Anaheim	57	24	24	4	5	145	165	57	15-13-0-2	9-11-2-5	6-2-1-1	W3
Edmonton	56	22	28	2	4	150	169	50	15-8-2-2	7-20-0-2	5-3-1-1	L1
Columbus	57	17	34	1	5	133	186	40	10-15-2-2	7-19-0-3	4-6-0-0	W1

d – division leaders ranked 1-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results

	Tomorrow's games											
Winnipeg 4 Minnesota 3 (SO)	Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.											
Dallas 3 Calgary 2 (OT)	Chicago at Columbus, 2 p.m.											
Chicago 4 N.Y. Rangers 2	Minnesota at St. Louis, 2 p.m.											
Philadelphia 7 Buffalo 2	Carolina at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.											
St. Louis 5 N.Y. Islanders 1	Washington at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.											
Tampa Bay 6 San Jose 5 (OT)	Toronto at Vancouver, 7 p.m.											
Phoenix at Los Angeles	Dallas at Phoenix, 8 p.m.											
Wednesday's results	Calgary at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.											
Ottawa 6 Florida 2	Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 12:30 p.m.											
Vancouver 3 Colorado 1	St. Louis at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.											
Toronto 4 Edmonton 3 (OT)	St. Louis at Chicago, 3 p.m.											
Boston 4 Montreal 3 (OT)	Boston at Minnesota, 3 p.m.											
Anaheim 2 Pittsburgh 1	New Jersey at Montreal, 6 p.m.											
Tonight's games – All Times Eastern	Edmonton at New Jersey, 7 p.m.											
Anaheim at New Jersey, 7 p.m.	San Jose at Carolina, 7 p.m.											
Montreal at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.	Montreal at Florida, 7:30 p.m.											
Washington at Florida, 7:30 p.m.	Nashville at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.											
Nashville at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.	Boston at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.											
Boston at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.	Ottawa at N.Y. Islanders, 1 p.m.											
Colorado at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.	Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.											

JETS 4, WILD 3 (SO)

	First Period											
1. Minnesota, Setoguchi 13 (Koivu, Heatley) 4:15,	Slater Wpg (roughing), Glass Wpg, Powe Min (fighting), Clutterbuck, Gionta (un-sportsmanlike conduct, roughing) 8:48.											
2. Winnipeg, Kane 20 (Wheeler, Byfuglien) 18:47	Penalties – Koivu Min (hooking) 0:25, Thorburn Wpg (high-sticking) 11:17.											
3. Minnesota, Setoguchi 14 (Prosser, Scandella) 12:15 (pp)	Secon Period											
4. Minnesota, Setoguchi 14 (Prosser, Scandella) 12:15 (pp)	Shootout – Winnipeg wins 2-1											
5. Minnesota, Setoguchi 10 (Spurgeon, Setoguchi) 1:03	Winnipeg (2) – Wheeler, goal; Wellwood, miss; Little, miss; Kane, goal; Minnesota (1) – Cullen, miss; Koivu, miss; Christensen, goal; Heatley, miss.											
6. Winnipeg, Burnistrom 11 (Byfuglien, Kane) 3:03	Penalties – Stapleton Wpg (high-sticking) 10:32, Byfuglien Wpg (roughing), W. Peters Min (un-sportsmanlike conduct) 13:08; Winnipeg bench (too many men; served by Stapleton) 14:41.											
7. Minnesota, Setoguchi 11 (Byfuglien, Kane) 3:03	Third Period											
8. Minnesota, Setoguchi 10 (Spurgeon, Setoguchi) 1:03	Attendance – 19,060 (18,064) at St. Paul, Minn.											

STARS 3, FLAMES 2 (OT)

	First Period											
1. Dallas, Burish 6 (Dowell, Wandell) 9:42	2. Calgary, Iginla 23 (Tanguay, Jokinen) 19:07											
Penalties – None.	Second Period											
3. Dallas, Ott 9 (Ribeiro) 17:43 (pp)	Penalties – Jackman Cal, Fistic Dal (double roughing) 9:44, Ribeiro Dal (slashing) 14:11, Jokinen Cal (slashing) 16:04.											
4. Calgary, Cammalleri 13 (Bouwmeester) 14:57	Third Period											
Penalties – Daley Dal (delay of game) 10:33, Ott Dal (charging) 12:47.	Overtime											
5. Dallas, Ribeiro 12 (Ryder, Daley) 2:01	Penalties – None.											
Penalties – None.	Shots on goal by											
6. Calgary, Cammalleri 13 (Bouwmeester) 14:57	Calgary, Iginla 23 (Tanguay, Jokinen) 19:07											

GOLF

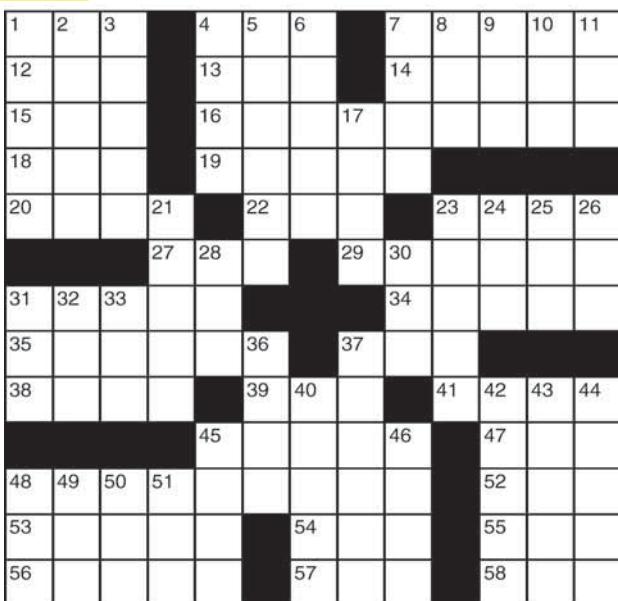
PGA NORTHERN TRUST OPEN

	At Los Angeles											
Par: 71 (35-36)	First Round											
Phil Mickelson	Phil Mickelson 33-33-66											
J.B. Holmes	J.B. Holmes 35-32-67											
Hunter Mahan	Hunter Mahan 31-36-67											
Jonathan Byrd	Jonathan Byrd 32-36-68											

Crossword

Across

1 Sort
4 Part of UCLA
7 Rice, on a Mexican menu
12 Army rank (Abbr.)
13 Raw rock
14 007 portrayer
Roger
15 Debtor's letters
16 Zodiac sign
18 Small salamander
19 14-Across, e.g.
20 Bronx cheer
22 Long. crosser
23 Long story
27 Lamb's dam
29 Hostage taker
31 Spy
34 Neat
35 Per — income
37 A Bobbsey Twin
38 Trudge
39 Personal question?
41 T, in Morse code
45 Handles
47 Meadow
48 Toy shooter
52 Rowing need
53 Eye-related
54 Tokyo's old name
55 Storefront sign abbr.
56 Practical joke
57 Caustic solution
58 Fire residue



Down

1 Less friendly
2 Bath sponge
3 Inert one
4 "Livin' la Vida —"
5 Soothsayer
6 Partitions that may be "deviated"

7 Eastern bigwig (Var.)
8 Sinbad's bird
9 Aussie hopper
10 Boston rink legend
11 Buddhist sect
17 Campus mil. org.
21 Chameleonlike
Woody Allen character
23 Shell out
24 \$ dispenser
25 Dems' rivals
26 Illustrations
28 Drench
30 Alias abbr.
31 Rm. coolers



For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

Today's horoscope

Aries March 21-April 20

Someone whose views you disagree with profoundly will play a huge role in your life over the next few weeks. You need each other.

Taurus April 21-May 21

When the Sun changes signs on Sunday, you'll be back to your old self again. Between now and then, prepare for some fireworks.

Gemini May 22-June 21

The Sun is about to cross the career angle of your chart, which suggests you will be in the spotlight.

Cancer June 22-July 22

According to the planets, you'll start something new over the next few weeks. Don't waste your resources.

Leo July 23-Aug. 23

You are on the verge of something big, but you don't need to force the situation. Let success come to you.

Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Cosmic activity in your opposite sign makes it appear as if you're losing control. Stop trying to hold on to what you no longer need.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23

The Sun's imminent move into the well-being area of your chart makes it a good time to take stock of your chores and responsibilities.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

You will get no end of opportunities between now and the end of the month to make your mark.

Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21

What's missing in your life will become apparent over the next few days. Once it does, all you have to do is go out and get it.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

If someone offers you something for nothing, they probably just like you and want to make you happy.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Wait until the Sun leaves your sign on the weekend before making a decision about a money matter.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

A new solar year begins on Sunday and it promises to be one in which your dreams start coming true.

• SALLY BROMPTON

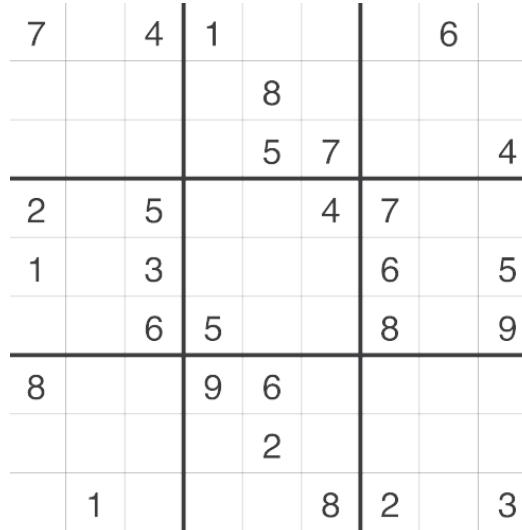


Your Time is NOW!

GOD said, "I will do a new thing... I will make rivers in the desert". A desert depicts lack, unfruitfulness, barrenness, and the likes. Naturally, it is characterized by lack of water, but if water is added, it blossoms and flourishes. Do you know that Jesus is the source of the Living Water? Drink of Him today and you will thirst no more.

RCCG Christ Embassy
101 2 St NW, Calgary AB
rccgcalgary.org

Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►



You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Brani, I love you more than anything in the world! Be my wife and let's be happy!
TONI

Dear Chris, you made my life brighter. We used to chat in the stairs, we used to laugh together, drink wine together, lie on your bed and talk all night long, can't stop thinking about you :(I know you had a crush on this other girl (I told you I think she's a total loser...anyways...) and I'm super shy, so I didn't make any move or didn't express my feelings so far...but now I haven't heard from you since you're back from your lil trip. Whatever happens between us, I just want to tell you I love you. YOUR LONG TIME FAN

To my pet, I'm eagerly to see u at terminal and main at 11am i'll be there until 1230.come to see me.
MCDONALD



Andrew Schultz,
Meteorologist

"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta." WEEKDAYS 5:30AM

A look at the weather

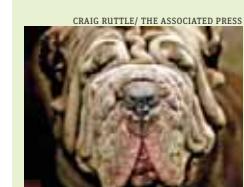
TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Min -6° Max 3°	Min -8° Max 5°	Min -6° Max 2°

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

Caption contest



“...and now, a word from our sponsor, Fruit Loops Cereal!”
LINDA



You write it!

WIN! Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Tuesday's Metro.

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